

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 NSC-05 INR-05 CIAE-00
NSAE-00 SP-02 L-01 PA-01 USIA-01 IO-06 TRSE-00
PM-03 DODE-00 /054 W
-----114774 042139Z /62

R 040710Z MAR 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5770
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0460

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, PINR, IZ
SUBJECT: FIRING OF IRAQI DIPLOMATS ON CORRUPTION
CHARGES

1. GOI HAS REMOVED FROM OFFICE ITS AMBASSADOR TO THE U.N., MOHAMMED SAID AL-SAHHAF, AND ASSIGNED HIM TO AN ORDINARY TEACHING JOB. THE REASON, ACCORDING TO A LOCAL SOURCE CLAIMING INTELLIGENCE ACCESS, IS EVIDENCE THAT SAHHAF ENGAGED IN CORRUPT PRACTICES WHILE AMBASSADOR TO NEW DELHI. IRAQI ACCOUNTANT AT THAT POST REPORTEDLY BLEW WHISTLE ON SAHHAF WHO WAS ADDING SUBSTANTIAL SUM TO HIS SALARY BY SUBMITTING FALSE REPRESENTATIONAL VOUCHERS.

2. IN SIMILAR CASE, A PERSONAL FRIEND OF IRAQI AMBASSADOR TO BONN ABDUL KARIM AL-SHAIKHLY, SAYS LATTER WILL BE WITHDRAWN. SHAIKHLY IS A FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER AND AMBASSADOR TO THE U.N. HIS REPORTED DISMISSAL, WHICH FRG EMBASSY WAS UNABLE TO CONFIRM, PROBABLY RELATES
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TO HIS ACTIVITIES IN NEW YORK. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL HE WAS TRANSFERRED FROM THAT JOB AFTER THE IRAQI COUNSELOR WAS DECLARED PNG IN DECEMBER 1976 FOR INVOLVEMENT IN THE PURCHASE AND ATTEMPTED EXPORT OF SUB MACHINE GUNS. IRAQI COUNSELOR, ALAA MOHAMMED AL-TAYYAR, WAS SUBSEQUENTLY REASSIGNED TO ATHENS. WE RECENTLY HEARD, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM ATHENS AFTER AN IRAQI

INVESTIGATION IN NEW YORK FOUND EVIDENCE OF PERSONAL
CORRUPTION. SHAIKHLY, REPORTEDLY, IS BLAMED FOR NOT
KEEPING A CLOSER WATCH ON TAYYAR AND MAY BE SUSPECTED
OF INVOLVEMENT WITH HIM IN CORRUPT ACTIVITIES.

3. RESPONSIBLE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL CONFIRMED
RUMORS OF SEVERAL HIGH LEVEL PERSONNEL SHAKEUPS,
INCLUDING WITHDRAWAL OF SAHHAF FROM UN.
PECK

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Message Attributes

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